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**SOLIDARITY WITH THE
PEASANT GUERRILLA
PRISIONES IN PARAGUAY.**



RADICAL SOLIDARITY COORDINATION

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**THEY WANTED TO BURY US
BUT THEY DIDN'T KNOW
WE WERE SEEDS...**

In December 2020 the international campaign "Eran Niñas" denounced the murdering of Liliana Villalba and Maria Villalba, 11 and 12 years old, as well as the disappearance of Lichita (Carmen Elizabeth Oviedo Villalba), 14, in the hands of the Paraguayan army. Far from being an isolated case, this is enchainned to a long history of repression applied by the Paraguayan government/army seeking to control social resistance. Liliana and Maria's murders, and Lichita's disappearance are part of the state terrorism apparatus applied since 2013 to destroy the guerrilla group Paraguayan Peoples Army - EPP.

State terrorism is present simultaneously in different ways. One of the key tools of state terrorism in Latin America - from the late 1950s on - is the blurring of the boundaries separating police, military, and secret services. This blurring not only implies massive militaristic presence into people's daily life but also generates "blind triangles" where the state acts in an impune manner. A clear distinctive feature in these territories is the imperialist role of the US military, which not only acted/acts as the great school of anti-insurgency and torture techniques for every Latin American military but is, as an expert in the field, also granted a free ticket for installing military bases in the territories "in conflict" under the absurd excuse of helping to maintain the democratic stability.

This can only be maintained through the massive application of fear - after all, fear is the engine of state terrorism. Fear of an all-seeing, all-hearing, all-killing state. It is important to note the aspect of the "-all". Because in a terrorist state, just as the divisions of repression institutions are erased, the divisions between those involved and those not involved also disappear. One cannot speak only of those who choose confrontation against the fascist and murderous state. The state, as a schooling method - and intending to destroy spaces of solidarity - unleashes its violence indiscriminately.



"Your poison breaches us and kills us. Stop fumigating us!"



Without denying the brutality of life under state terrorism in colonized territories like Paraguay, it is worth emphasizing that: not even when fighting side by side with the imperialist capitalist interest, counting on the best training in torture that the CIA can give them, and in control of mass media, nation-states are not able to destroy social resistance. Resistance is inherent to the existence of colonized peoples, we learn in school that we have 500 years of colonial history in Latin America. Well, we bring you another perspective on that, we rather celebrate 500 years of resistance, direct anti-colonial and insurgent action in the territories of Abya Yala, a history which the EPP is part of.

Social movements are always a result of their sociopolitical context and arise within the same as a means of opposition - revolutionary ones with a clear purpose of attempting for alternative worlds. The construction of alternative worlds requires the destruction of capitalist interests and colonial dominance. Therefore, we offer an overview of the web of interests and dominance that constitute the current Paraguayan state, as we understand it is the main enemy of the social movement for territorial autonomy and of the EPP.

The use of violence against the families of EPP members is a key method for understanding Paraguay's political landscape. Lichita's disappearance is also an act of revenge against her mother Carmen Villalba and her father Alcides Oviedo, both founders and leaders of the EPP. Carmen Villalba was scheduled for release in July 2021, after finishing her prison sentence. A year ago the Paraguayan authorities and media started a press campaign against Carmen Villalba alleging fear of her actions once she is released. Thus building a discourse on crime prevention on her part, which is now being used to refuse her freedom. This August a decision for a new prison sentence until 2035 became public, just before her release, turning the search of Lichita impossible to Carmen.

With this text, we seek not only to open a space for discussion on a topic that is not of public knowledge in the Berlin scene, but to position ourselves in the search for Lichita, we demand her appearance alive and we are in full solidarity with Carmen Villalba and her continuous struggle from confinement over the last 17 years.

Likewise, we are convinced the Paraguayan state is to blame for the death of Lilian and María and the forced disappearance of Lichita.

¡ERAN NIÑAS! THEY WERE CHILDREN!

1_ An apparatus that is positioned in the tradition of US imperialist anti-insurgency politics, that finds its beginnings on Latin American territories in the '50s with the first signings of IMF loans, marking the practice of liberal economic policies and defining a new stage of colonialism, what we call military extractivism. In the case of Paraguay, in 1956 Stroessner one into his military dictatorship borrowed money from the IMF and committed to neoliberal "adjustment" reforms. This sparked opposition of the worker and student movement but also in his conservative party, but Stroessner used police and military to persecute, torture, and kill the opposition and through a regime of terror managed to stay in power.

In November 2019 Laura Villalba traveled from Argentina (where she lives with her family) to Paraguay with her daughter Maria Carmen (11 years old), and her four nieces Lilian (11 years old), Carmen Elizabeth (14 years old), Tania Anahi (14 years old) and Tania Tamara (19 years old) so that the girls could meet their relatives for the first time ever, peasant fighters and members of the EPP. An aspect that constitutes a keen particularity of the Paraguayan anti-insurgency strategy.¹

Their will was to complete this visit and return to their home in March 2020, but the COVID-19 pandemic prevented their return because of the border closure between Paraguay and Argentina. Therefore, they stayed in territory controlled by the EPP until September 2, 2020, when they were ambushed by the special military command Joint Task Force-FTC. The FTC of the Armed Forces attacked a camp of the EPP, located in the north of the country in the area of Yby Yaú, known as "Arroyito". In this attack, Lilian and María were ambushed, tortured, and executed pretending a confrontation with the EPP that never existed.

It is worth noting that the "operation" was publicly described as successful by the current president Mario Abdo². He claims that it was an attack on the guerrilla organization EPP. The government even circulated the version that the two girls had died during an alleged confrontation with the armed organization, stating that both girls were part of the front line of fire of the EPP. Mario Abdo even published a picture on his official Twitter account posing together with the FTC congratulating them for the work done.

The FTC can not count on the support of the Paraguayan society, they have not been able to legitimize their existence so far, because they have not been able to win in the armed confrontation against the EPP. In this scenario of direct loss against the armed social resistance, the

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2_ He is the son of Mario Abdo Benítez, who was the personal secretary of dictator Alberto Stroessner for 30 years. Thus, the current president Mario Abdo is considered a "heir of the dictatorship", whose social status and capital are the product of his family's work with fascism. At the same time, his political career was only consolidated by his connections to the oligarchic right-wing of the country. "Marito" (as he calls himself to be distinguished from his father) finished his high school studies in the United States in 1989, graduating in Political Marketing at the Post University in the same country. He is also a Reserve Aviation Sub-Lieutenant, appointed by the Air Force Command as a Military Parachutist.



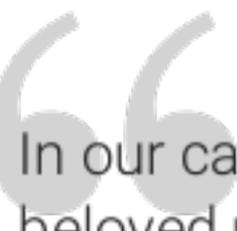
A_ From left to right, Lichita, Lilian and Maria Carmen.

3_ There is a special denunciation of irregularities concerning the refusal to apply the Minnesota protocol by the prosecutors. The Minnesota Protocol on the Investigation of Potentially Unlawful Death (2016) is a set of international guidelines for the investigation of suspicious deaths, particularly those in which the responsibility of a State is suspected (either as a result of act or omission).

government is using this double infanticide as a way to legitimize the existence of an "Anti-terrorist" repressive apparatus of which the FTC is the armed wing, but which includes, among other things, extradition policies and the attempt to expand the working terrain of the paraguayan secret service on argentinian territory.

From the very beginning, the versions told by the paraguayan state - and replicated by many media outlets without any questioning - focused on creating the narrative that the girls were "guerrilleras" - combatants - and were "defeated" in an alleged confrontation. They falsified the age of the girls, dressed them in military clothes, to then publish photos of both of them. These cloth were burned after doing the photos, thus destroying any evidence of manipulation by the state. The family and solidarity structures denounce that the prosecutors and state structures, far from investigating the case, only work as a cover-up force for the military. To this day they continue to deny the family the right to an autopsy and the family denounces that all procedures are being irregular³.

The long demonization of the Villalba family has declined in turning the children into "spoils of war" a methodology that is not new. On the contrary, the forced disappearance of militants' children continues to be an open wound. The use of this methodology, so typical of Latin American military dictatorships, in 2020 from a supposed state of law, is not only alarming but a clear message that the paraguayan government wants to give: state terrorism.



In our case, we are a family composed of women and children who had to leave our beloved paraguay because of the innumerable persecutions we have suffered as relatives of leaders of the guerrilla of the Paraguayan People's Army (E.P.P.). We have been enduring these reprisals since 2006, our houses have been raided at any time, they persecute our children, they even tried to kidnap them from the schools, they blocked our roads when we returned with the children from their studies, they took pictures of them and other threats, for that reason and looking after the safety of our children we left our country and settled in argentina.

expressed Myriam Villalba, mother of the executed girl, Lilian, and sister of Carmen Villalba.

Solidarity was quickly built up and different campaigns like "Eran niñas/Aparición con Vida de Lichita" were launched, gaining not only international support but also from a wide range of political sectors. In this regard, the support from argentina has a particular role, since it is the "Gremial de Abogados" together with the SERPAJ doing the legal work. In this same line, it is worth mentioning the support of Abuelas de Plaza de Mayo, Madres de Plaza de Mayo Línea Fundadora, Feministas del Abya Yala, CONAMURI, and much more feminist organizations of paraguay, The coordination Simón Bolívar- Venezuela, the Anarchist Federation of Euskaleria, even progressive and social democrats

political parties of Latin American, as well as international human rights organizations such as the UNO or Amnesty International.

This exposes a solidarity structure that has existed for many years, in which the Gremial de Abogados in Argentina has supported women (some even fearing for their lives, especially when pregnant) and children, to complete their process for residency in Argentina and have a life outside the domain of the FTC. Currently the "Gremial de Abogados" has decided to stop the solidarity missions in Paraguayan territory due to the growing threat to people, after a member of SERPAJ was publicly falsely labeled as the new leader of the EPP.

Despite the state of threat that prevails in Paraguay, solidarity with the campaign and the prisoners Carmen Villalba and Laura Villalba is alive. Once again, it is the feminist movement that takes to the streets and provides opposition. For example, a feminist group sprayed on the national monument "Panteón de la Patria" (Pantheon of the homeland). The solidarity action was distorted in the media, and the people involved were prosecuted. Even different nationalist groups - followers of current president Mario Abdo - call on social media to go "hunting feminists". In this constellation, the anger towards the feminist movement is transformed into resistance; and the pain for the murders of Maria and Liliana, and the forced disappearance of Lichita becomes solidarity.

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CHRONOLOGY

NOVEMBER 2019

Carmen Elizabeth “Lichita”(15), Tania Tamara Villalba (19), Tamara Anahí (15), Lilian Mariana, and Maria Carmen both 11, travel with Laura Villalba from argentina to paraguay to visit their parents and relatives, combatants of the EPP Guerilla. The borders between argentina and paraguay got closed in March 2020 due to Corona. Therefore they stay in northern paraguay. The paraguayan military notices that they are staying and launches an intelligence operation to find and attack them.

SEPTEMBER 2ND, 2020

The military attacks the camp of the EPP where the four girls are staying. Tania sees how the military captures Lilian Mariana, who will later be extrajudicially executed by the military forces together with her sister Maria Carmen and presented as an enemy combatant by the paraguayan president. Pictures of the dead bodies are passed to the media by the military on which they dressed the dead girls as guerrilla fighters. The identities of the children are falsified, stating they were at least 18 years old and destroying evidence at the place.

SEPTEMBER 3RD-7TH, 2020

After the attack, Lichita, who was shot in the leg, and her aunt Laura manage to escape together and hide in the forest. After a few days, they meet Tania and Tamara Anahí, who also managed to escape the attack, together with 3 members of the EPP. While Lichita is recovering, they search for a way of getting back to argentina.

NOVEMBER 20TH, 2020: SECOND ATTACK BY THE FTC.

On November 20, three EPP members accompanying Laura, Tania, Tamara Anahí, and Lichita are killed by the FTC. In Tania’s words: “The shots were all coming from above. We

were coming out of the bush, and the shots were coming from the hills, and we were in a bare field, with no chance of anything. With my cousins and my aunt we rolled and rolled, and we arrived at a small thin mountain, where we stayed for 15 days waiting for something to happen, we did not know what to do, nothing, we just waited, without food, and for two days we did not even talk to each other, without communicating, sitting in the water”⁵.

LAST TIME THEY SAW LICHITA AND HER AUNT

Tania and Tamara Anahí, go back to Guazú Hill to look for water and food , while Lichita - who can’t walk- stays hidden with her aunt Laura. Both are too tired and due to the lack of food, they lose orientation and never manage to get back to Laura and Lichita. Tania does not remember the exact date since they lost Lichita and her aunt, but she specifies that for around 30 days they were walking in the forest, constantly escaping attacks by the military. That they were very hungry and that the place where there was water was close to where the confrontations occurred, so they were afraid to return. They managed to survive by drinking their our own urine, eating coconut, snakes, toads and cactus.

NOVEMBER 30TH, 2020

The 14-year-old Lichita was last seen on November 30, 2020, according to the testimony of her aunt Laura Villalba Ayala. Lichita was in a community in Amambay with Laura and they separated when Laura went to search for food, as Lichita was still very weak because of her injury. Laura didn’t manage to find her again. In her quest for finding Lichita she talks to villagers that have seen the military taking a young girl. Now it can be established that Lichita was disappears on 3th December.

DECEMBER 15TH, 2020

Tania and Tamara Anahí find several bags and the diary of Lichita, that says that Lichita was alone in the place for three days because Laura

went to look for them and that 12 days ago they had left to search for food. With no hope of finding Lichita, they leave the bush and follow the current of a river until they reach a house where they are given food and clothes and are helped to leave the place to reach Argentina on December 23.

DECEMBER 23TH, 2020

On the morning of December 23rd, 2020, Laura Mariana Villalba Ayala (36) mother of María Carmen Villalba is found by the military and taken as hostage.

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Let's push the search for Lichita

Compañeras and compañeros, in these difficult moments where all the pains converge to a single question: Where is Lichita? Today nobody answers, only the quick rustle of the wind that indifferently brushes me. But the relentless militancy can look for her, can find her, Lichita is a child, let's not leave her alone, help me look for her.

Let's pull Lichita out of that dark silence that corrodes and compresses.

I am a prisoner, but that does not extinguish my unwavering decision to look for my Lichita, I know she is waiting for me somewhere.

Carmen Villalba
Communist Prisoner.



B_Carmen Villalba



CURRENT ECONOMICAL AND POLITICAL SITUATION

Five linguistic families and at least 19 Indigenous Peoples are coexist in Paraguay: Guaraní (Aché, Avá Guaraní, Mbya, Pai Tavytera, Guaraní Nandeva, Guaraní Occidental), Maskoy (Toba Maskoy, Enlhet Norte, Enxet Sur, Sanapaná, Angaité, Guaná), Mataco Mataguayo (Nivaclé, Maká, Manjui), Zamuco (Ayoreo, Yvytoso, Tomáraho) and Guaicurú (Qom).

With a population of 7 million, nearly 3 million live in the capital city of Asuncion del Paraguay, and its surrounding. It is one of only two landlocked countries in South America -with Bolivia- which places a big role as it creates a dependency on other countries like Brasil and Argentina for all international trade.

Asuncion del Paraguay has a very particular role in the colonial history of the continent, as it was the first capital of the vice-royalty ("Virreinato") of the Río de la Plata, functioning as the starting point for all expeditions of Spanish colonialists and for the foundations of other cities in the area, including Buenos Aires. This earned it, among historians, the qualification of "mother of cities", and positioned it during the "Independentist" era in a confrontative position towards Buenos Aires, which quickly after its foundation -and due to its harbor- held a powerful position in the regional politics. The fact of being the first city founded by the colonizers, has made it a central place for religious missions as well. Being also the first place where the Catholic Church was established in South America.

Paraguay is the second most deforested country in Latin America, being a much smaller country in terms of surface, it has in absolute numbers more deforestation than its neighbors Argentina and Bolivia. Between 2001 and 2019, 6 million hectares of forest were lost. Deforestation is driven by an aggressive agricultural industry, that provides primary resources to the international markets. A process that only benefits a local bourgeoisie of extensive landowners and multinational capital. 2.6% of the landowners own 85% of the land. As a result, Paraguay is the fourth largest exporter of soybeans and one of the world's leading meat exporters, both businesses driven by an insatiable demand for cheap meat in the global-north.

At the same time, the food production for the Paraguayan people is provided majorly by subsistence and small farmers. These 280.000 small producers, which are crucial for the local economy share only 10% of the territory. These numbers show how the distribution of land in Paraguay is determined by large landholdings (latifundios), Paraguay has one of the most uneven land distribution systems in the world (Sistema de repartición de Tierras). It's a scenario of extreme polarization: The landowners attack with impunity social movements and use their private armies to force their interests onto the rest of the population. Displacement and industrial farming lead to the destruction of the livelihood of people, the basis for communal life and indigenous cultures.

While the state is not present in providing any services in the north of the country it employs an omnipresent apparatus of repression to prevent any form

of alternative to the status quo.

Such omnipresent repression apparatus has historically been intertwined with the catholic church as a cultural and ideological institution of repression. Paraguay is the country with the highest rate of Catholicism in the region, supported and directly represented by imperialist interest, through the active presence of US activists⁴ who arduously work against the feminist movement. This imperialist activist movement found its highlight in 2017 when in a joint campaign with radical right-wing movements of Paraguay they managed to pass a law prohibiting gender as a topic of discussion in the primary and secondary school system. Not only making Paraguay the first country in the region with such an aberrantly patriarchal restriction but consolidating the interdependence of the extreme right-wing and imperialist interests with patriarchy.

In the same line, it is important to understand that the territorial displacement of indigenous peoples and cultures and the deprivation of self-governed or organized territories was and is the mechanism preeminent in the processes of monoculturalization promoted by the catholic church as a religious institution. Thus converting monoculturalism into the foundation of the Latin American nation-state, which although founded on an ironic facade of "independence" and "success" against colonial power, is based on the uninterrupted massacre of peoples and cultures through the reproduction of colonial dominance. Thus postulating the nation-state and private land holding as the prevailing form of socio-political organization.

4_ The political connection between Paraguay and the USA had its public consolidation in 2018 when Paraguay was the second country to follow the USA in moving their embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. Hence, stating their full support towards the Israel Nation-State in their colonial fight towards Palestinian peoples.

¡ROIKOVESE HA ROIKOVETA!

Like any space governed by capitalism and private property, women's bodies become one of the central battlegrounds. In a constellation of mass Catholicism and elitist territorial control it is not surprising that Paraguay has one of the highest rates of sexual violence in the region and the highest teenage pregnancy rate in South America: almost every day two girls between the ages of 10 and 14 give birth. Sexualized violence against women and sexual dissidents is widespread, and the femicide rate is one of the highest in the region.

In response to this violence, there are many sparks of active resistance, even when not accounted by mainstream media, the feminist movement has a strong presence and has been growing since 2017.

On March 8, 2017, around 10,000 women took to





the streets of the capital, Asunción, and other cities under the slogan “Roikovese ha roikoveta”, which in Guaraní means “Vivas nos queremos” (We want us alive) From this day the feminist movement, conformed mostly by indigenous women, has become more and more present in the public life. In the collective construction of such movement, and mostly in the persistent fight against the heavily accepted patriarchal structures, women, girls, and queers successfully established themselves as political subjects, as subjects of struggle, and as forces of direct change.

Last March 8th, one of the largest demonstrations in recent times took place, where in addition to the characteristic demands of the feminist struggles, the demand for Lichita’s appearance and the denouncement of the murder of Lilian and María was the central points: “We denounce that the continuity of State terrorism exercised by the dictatorship of Alfredo Stroessner, can be seen in the execution of two 11-year-old girls, in the hands of the Joint Task Forces last September in Yby Yaú. The disappearance of Lichita alive, after an operation and after being wounded by FTC snipers last November”. And openly demanding the full dismissal of the current presidential cabinet: “We took to the streets to demand with the people that President Mario Abdo Benítez, his vice President Hugo Velázquez, and his entire negligent cabinet leave”.

The work of solidarity with the prisoners Carmen and Laura Villalba, the work of denouncing the case of Maria Carmen and Lilian, and the demands that Lichita returns alive, are strongly driven by the feminist movement.

There cannot be capital exploitation nor colonial expropriation without gender oppression. There cannot be revolutionary movements without anti-patriarchal fights, a reason why the feminist movement does not function in isolation, but rather together with the peasant movement.

From bottom up: “We want us alive” | “Land for Women. For our food sovereignty.” | “We strike. We take care.”

PEASANT MOVEMENT

Paraguay's peasant movement has a long tradition of struggle. Rooted in the indigenous movement, it is directly linked to the colonial history of this place. The peasant movement has a long tradition of indigenous and class struggle. It arises from the grassroots of society and fights for the right to self-determination while struggling for a space of social, political, and food sovereignty. The struggle for territory means the struggle for a place to live, for a place for communal life, and a place for autonomous food supply. Fertile soil is the country's main natural resource and it is therefore at the center of the colonial system implemented in Paraguay (unlike in other regions of South America, this territory does not have precious metals or other minerals).

In terms of organizations, we can begin by mentioning the Ligas Agrarias, created towards the end of the '50s as an organization strongly linked to the Trade Unions. These began to prepare a political path of direct attack to the uneven land distribution system of Paraguay, forced by the working class.

At that time, the peasant movement, for the most part, was Marxist (very common of the regional historical moment and the Latin American national liberation movements) and was violently repressed from '54 onwards by the Stroessner dictatorship and the USA. Incarceration, torture, and murders by a repressive apparatus that was fueled by an obsessive and violent anti-communism.

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THE SITUATION OF THE PEASANT MOVEMENT IN THE '90S AND 2000S

When Stroessner's dictatorship ended the movement entered a new phase. On the one hand, demonstrations were allowed and negotiations with the government were possible. The movement used mass mobilization and the occupation of lands that were illegally sold during the dictatorship to protest for a land reform that would break the latifundios and distribute the land to small farmers. The peasant movement was strengthened not only in its numbers and influence on society but also in its action, carrying out various actions of squatting territories, as well as of confrontation against the exploiting capitals of the agro-industrial businessman.

On the other hand, the soy boom undermined the movement's position, and dispossession and displacement of peasants' territories are going on. Since the so-called democracy at least 150 peasant leaders were killed by a hitman and many more during manifestations and repression by the state.

More and more peasants left the countryside leaving today only 40% of the population working the land. All the big farms have private armed security and in the 2000s the military started deploying to the countryside and participating in the evictions of the squats, even though the internal



use of the military was prohibited by law at the time. Military consultants from the USA, Colombia, and Israel trained the armed forces in counter-insurgency tactics and laid the ground to what would later be known as the Fuerzas de Tareas Conjuntas and the military built outposts close to the farms they were to protect. While the police and military brutally attack and persecute the squatters the movement resists and occupations continue. The struggle for land and justice is fought every day.

In response to the destruction of nature, the disposition of their lands, the extreme poverty in the countryside, and the harsh repression, parts of the social movement radicalizes its means and decides to take arms in self-defense. This is when the EPP proposes a “fight against the democracy of the rich, that is exclusive, fascist and criminal. A part of the rebellious slaves has decided to take the arms and fight for a new and just society.” One of its first actions is to attack an illegal military outpost.

THE MASACRE OF CURUGUATÍ

The Curuguatí massacre took place on June 15, 2012, when police officers tried to evict peasants occupying land in this city in eastern Paraguay. The peasants had occupied the land known as Marina Cué days ago, which officially remained state land and which was included by decree in the 2004 land distribution law for peasants.

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Nevertheless and employing political connections the member of the red party and oligarch Blaz Riquelme, obtained false legal resources to occupy these lands in the name of his agricultural company Campo Morambí. Even though the claims by the company were fought in court they managed to get the police to illegally evict the land. During the police attack, 11 squatters and 6 police were

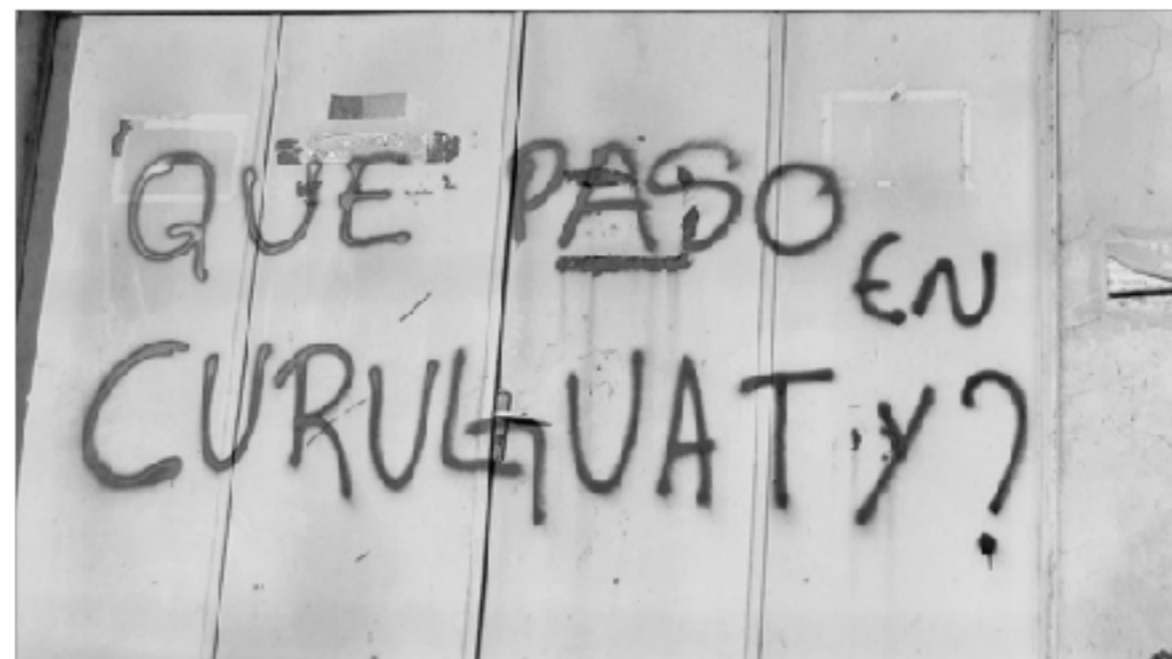


killed. The surviving squatters were arrested and a campaign of legal repression was unleashed against them, leading to their conviction. 11 of them were given prison sentences ranging from 5 to 30 years. They were liberated in 2018, after a large solidarity campaign by the social movement, that concluded in their acquittal by the paraguayan supreme court.

The media manipulation of Curuguatí marked a break in the political life of the peasant movement. The state created a discourse that completely demonized the movement, claiming that they were violent and that their main objective was to kill the police. This discourse drew heavily on the patriarchal values of the nation-state, especially demonizing the women who were there, blaming them for wanting to use their charm to persuade the police, as a method of facilitating the work of their partners. This was added to a discourse in which women, as mothers, were blamed solely for having taken their children to the Marina Cué lands, accusing them of doing it as a way of trying to stop the police.

Curuguatí served as a symbolic enabler for expanding the repression apparatus back into the parliamentary sphere again. Immediately after the massacre of Curuguatí, paraguayan mainstream media started a coordinated campaign against then president Fernando Lugo. Lugo had been voted into presidency in 2008 running on a historic nomination that united most of the opposition to the Partido Colorado (Red Party) and it was the first time in 62 years that the reign of the Colorado Party was interrupted.

Far from being a radical leftist, Lugo, who is part of Latin America's progressive pink tide, proposed some basic liberal reforms, but wouldn't in any way touch the status quo of power relations within the country. Under his government the state started offering some basic services to the population, that would provide offering a small patch for the misery created by an economic system that his government was unwilling to change. But even these moderate reforms were too much for a country that is governed by the western colonial interests and supported by a corrupt latifundium oligarchy. Lugo's Coalition fell apart shortly after he was elected. CIA Cables published by Wikileaks show that the Colorado Party in 2009 was discussing the possibility of impeaching Lugo.



"What happen in Curugaty?"

C_ During the trial against the peasants in July 2016, five women -three of them, mothers of imprisoned farmers- chained to the gates of the Justice Court as a claim for the farmer's freedom.



D_ Solidarity with the peasant movement and with the events in Curuguatí arose from the beginning. During all the years that the trial against the prisoners lasted, the social movement took to the streets showing support to the prisoners and demanding their liberation as well as the restitution of the lands, which shows that the political struggle that motivated the occupation of the lands of Marina Kué was continued by the social movement in other territories of Paraguay.



They found a reason in the massacre of Curuguatí accusing Lugo of having supported “violent peasants” and accusing him of the death of the police officers. A parliamentary coup leads to the Red Party regaining power in 2013. What followed was a corrupt government that is known to have bought votes in the elections and the parliament, that implemented a full return to neoliberal politics while increasing the militarization and repression against the social movement, officially creating the Fuerzas de Tareas Conjuntas (Join Taskforce), as counter-insurgency unit with the explicit task of annihilating the EPP guerilla.

Makes sense to note that, Carmen Villalba, has distanced herself from Lugo and his political intentions. Stating that as part of the EPP, she does not saw in Lugo a way for radical change.

COLONIAL RELATION OF GERMANY TO PARAGUAY

The coup against Fernando Lugo also shone a light on a long but mostly unknown relationship between the German and paraguay states when it comes to repression and colonial exploitation. Dirk Niebel, at that time visiting paraguay as the German minister for development aid recognized the new coup government, being the first foreign representative to do so. But german colonial interests go a long way back in paraguay.

After germany lost the war in 1945 paraguay was one of the prime destinations for Nazi officers that escaped persecution and fled to south america using the "ratlines". They were supported by the spanish state, the catholic church, and from 1947 onwards the CIA. Over 10.000 Nazi cadres escaped this way to south america including paraguay. One of the most famous cases is Josef Mengele, who escaped to paraguay when being discovered in argentina. The Gehlen Organization that would later become the BND (German foreign intelligence service) would support this effort making it clear that the german security services have had a broad connection to paraguay since the second world war. Overall more than 40.000 germans moved to paraguay shortly after World War II.

In 1954, the longest military dictatorship in south america began: General Alfredo Stroessner, himself of German descent, would hold onto power for the next 35 years. Hans Rudel, the famous "Luftwaffe" pilot, and outspoken Nazi was a close friend and advisor of the paraguay dictator. Stroessner established paraguay as a client state of western interests. He implemented already in the 50's neoliberal reforms and was a fierce anti-communist fighter.

Germany was a faithful supporter of the dictatorship and maintained extensive economic relations as well as being a participant in the genocidal land displacement policies of Stroessner. Big companies like Siemens profited from the 70's hydraulic energy boom, supplying the turbines for Itaipú, the world's largest hydroelectric power plant at that time. But germany also knowingly supported the dictator in his genocide against the indigenous population from the 50's onward. In large-scale advertising campaigns, paraguay, supposedly "deserted" land was now also offered in west german newspapers, investment protection, and Hermes guarantees offered by the german state assured the investors. This resulted in germans being the biggest foreign landowners in paraguay. But the lands that were sold through F.A.Z advertisement are indigenous territories. Indigenous peoples were put into so called reservations, brutal prison camps, to make their territories available for foreign investment.

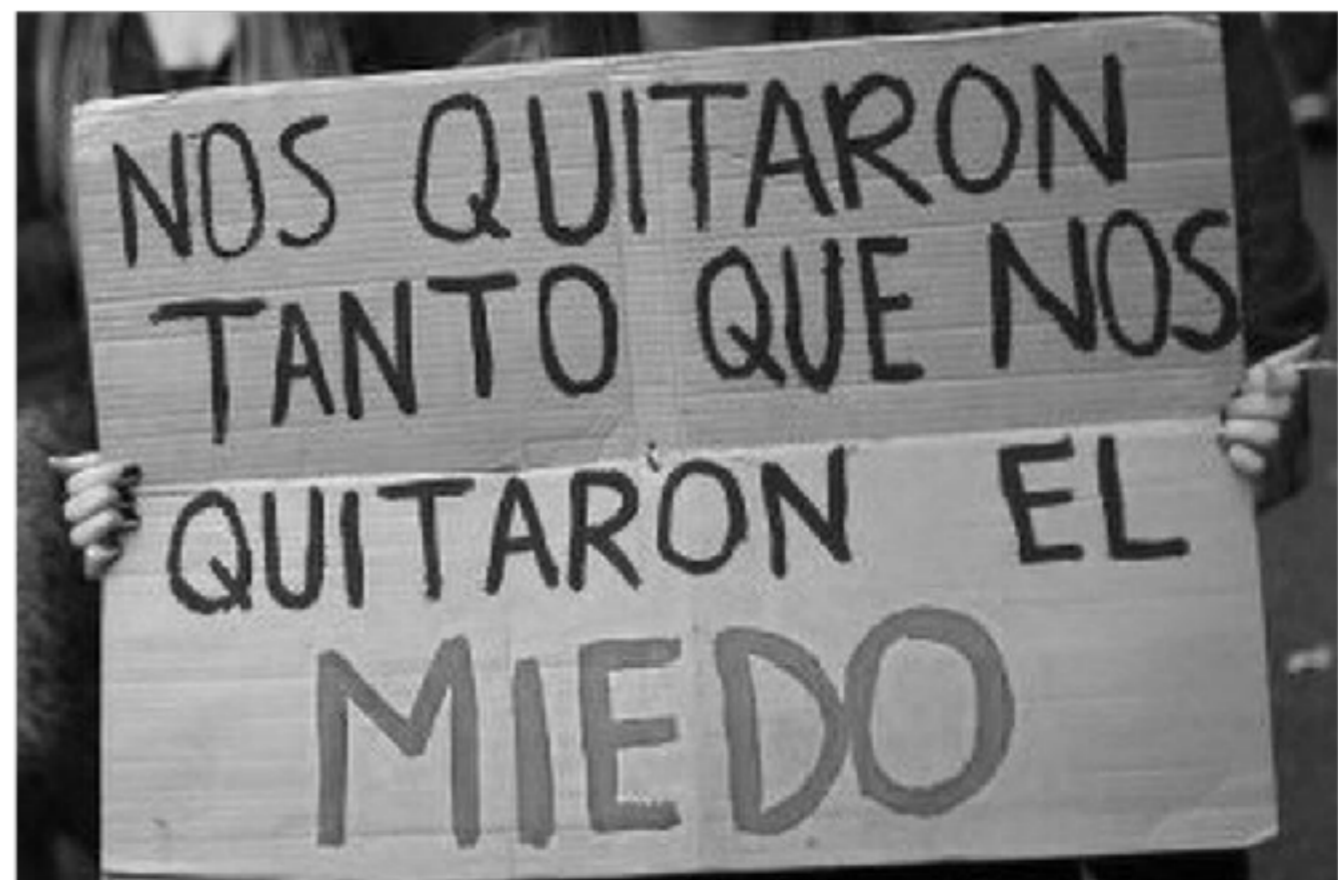
The prison camps show as an example how deeply germans were connected to the genocide and Stroessner's dictatorship. These camps, run by germans that lived in paraguay would get funded by german capital through a so called "charity" committee. This committee was chaired by the representative of the Hoechst pharmaceutical company. Its deputy was Clemens von Thuemen, owner of a plastics factory and long-time president of the German-paraguay Chamber of Commerce. The treasurer was also a german, Thomas Holt, working as a representative of the Bank of America. When news of the horrible conditions in the prison camps reached the german public, the government

did all to downplay the accusations and contributed to a defamation campaign against those who had brought the abuses into attention.

It is also remarkable how private interest and the state work together in this genocidal project. While the state forced indigenous peoples into the prison camps with military force, the prison camps were run as "charitable organizations" that were run by private persons and financed through donations. Missionaries from the US (New Tribes Missionaries) were coming to "educate" the indigenous populations, indoctrinating them in Western ways. Imposing a system of representative leaders through voting, forcing them to a sedentary lifestyle, monogamy and the Christian religion, abusing and killing thousands of people, and selling their children as slave labor for domestic work.

The connection of German industry, colonial interest, and the repression in Paraguay goes on until this day. Over 90% of Paraguayan exports to Germany consist of soybeans, that are used in Germany for the meat industry. Therefore contributing to the devastation and contamination of indigenous land in Paraguay and supporting the business model of the oligarchy that came to power through Stroessner's dictatorship. This is to be reinforced by the planned trade agreement between the EU and the Mercosur that wants to enshrine the position of South American countries as the extractivist providers of primary resources. The militarization of the Paraguayan north, the displacement of the indigenous peoples, the use of anti-insurgency tactics against the EPP and the peasant movement, the killings of hundreds and the disappearance of Lichita, and the murder of Lilian Mariana and Maria Carmen are directly connected to the interests of the dirty business of the German meat industry.

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"They took so much from us, that they took away our fear"

COUNTERINSURGENCY

The counterinsurgency strategy in Paraguay must be understood in direct relation to imperialist politics, as imperialism is a direct continuation of colonial domination. After the second world war, the US started playing a role in the whole world as an exporter of war. In territories like Paraguay, this means a direct infiltration of local politics through the overtaking of the national security and surveillance structures. The U.S counterinsurgency politics are a means for today's colonial domination. It proves as a valuable tool to maintain U.S. hegemony over Latin America by using the respective militaries to suppress any fight for political and economical freedom.

The history of infiltration in the Paraguayan military forces by the U.S. goes way back, as the military officers of the Stroessner fascist dictatorship were trained in counterinsurgency tactics and the application of torture in the "School of the Americas" (SOA). The SOA is an infamous institution first based in Panama then in the US, where military and police officers from around Latin America were trained.

Ironically, the first military exercise conducted by the SOA was an exact copy of the first expedition into the rainforest of Panama that Spanish troops had conducted 300 years earlier, making it evident that these military tactics of today are a continuation of the colonial invasions. The fact that they followed this exact route aimed not only to reproduce a military tactic but to ideologically consolidate the entanglement between the modern fascist military and the first colonizers. In the '50s, when the SOA was funded the U.S. had long replaced the Spanish state as the main colonizer in Latin America. Since the middle of the 19th century, it was engaging in regime change and had declared Latin America its "own backyard". But with the success of the Vietcong and the Cuban Revolution, the U.S. saw a danger for their political and economic interests. Liberatory, leftist and anti-colonial movements and struggles spread around the continent. In this context, the SOA had a very specific task. To spread a new paradigm of war that had developed in the fights against communist insurgencies in Asia: Counter-insurgency warfare.

The main insight that the officers were to learn, was that in these new wars the enemy were not other states but the peoples. This made the officers aware that they had to play a political role in their nation-states and encouraged them to overtake the political power if necessary to stop the social movements. The school became the base for military dictatorships in the region. Most of the officials that orchestrated the coups d'état were alumni of the SOA. In the dictatorships killings, forced disappearances, torture, and militarization characterized everyday life. The brutality of the state terror points to the very core of the counter-insurgency thought. The primary goal is to separate the social movements from the rest of society. All the bonds of sympathy and solidarity are to be destroyed by fear, violence and misinformation. Everybody whose loyalty to the state is not clear becomes a target. But all the repression was not enough to destroy the resistance in the population that eventually led to the destitution of the military rulers. After the return to bourgeois democracy in the '80s

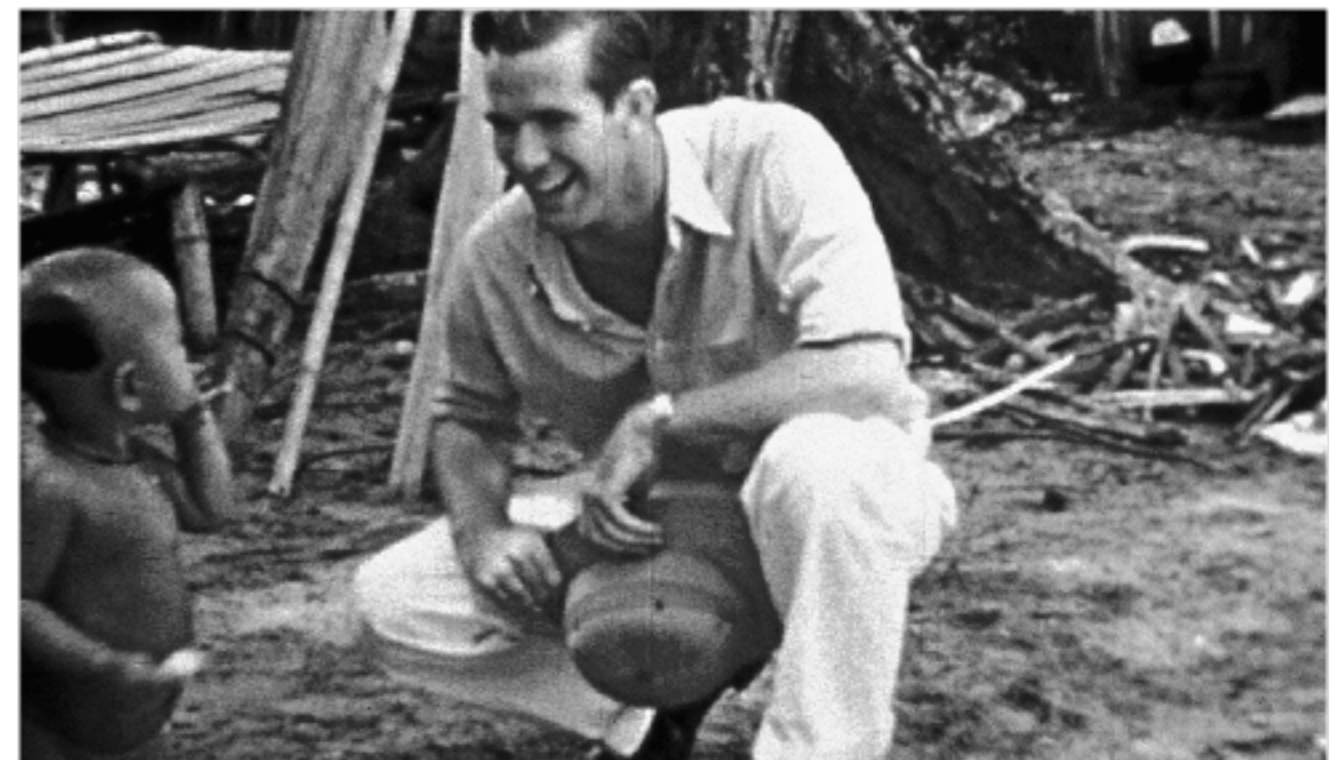
and '90s strong protests arouse against the SOA's participation in the dictatorships. Especially leaked manuals that were used to teach torture brought a heavy blow to the school's reputation, forcing the school to rename. But the school continues under its new name "Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation" with the training of counter-insurgency forces, especially for U.S. client states, like Colombia, Honduras, and Paraguay, since 2001.

This fell together with a new surge of U.S. military engagement in the region legitimized with the so-called war against terror but fueled by the U.S renewed fear of losing control in the region. While the military dictatorships ended, the economic dependency of Latin America persisted and the U.S. imposed austerity and privatization through the World Monetary Fund. A new wave of social movements endangered U.S. hegemony. Around the continent, progressive governments came into power during the pink tide. When the U.S attempted to build new military bases in the region, its attempts were often frustrated by the social movements that rejected the military presence. But the U.S could count on its old ally: The Paraguayan government that allowed the construction of a military base in 2005 and granted U.S soldiers complete immunity. Today the U.S. has tightened the grip again by supporting reactionary forces all around the continent. It participated in coups d' etat in Haiti, Honduras, Paraguay, and Brazil and used its economical hegemony to launch harsh sanctions against the populations of Venezuela, Cuba, and Nicaragua.

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E_ From the 50's onwards, hundreds of military and police officers were trained in the SOA. Meanwhile the so called "humanitarian and development" programs from Germany fund the cultural supremacist work of the New Tribes Mission, one of the biggest organizations of Protestant missionaries that fulfill colonial extermination in the modern era in Latin America. The NTM seeks until today to bring Christian Religion to all peoples in the global south.

Even when counter insurgency shares certain common ideals and methods in every place in which it is applied- perhaps due to its entanglement to the nation-state- it has certain specific forms related to the social constellation on which it is applied. In these lines, we would like to highlight how colonialism and its accreditation in western societies function as a validation step for counter-insurgency in the global south



as the infiltration of the military and the use of counter-insurgency is tightly connected to “development aid”.

This has several sides. In Latin America, the money of the political foundations, The Ford Foundation, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, etc. is used to pacify the left and coopt social movements, to prevent radical political movements. USAID, a CIA development agency, funds right-wing and neoliberal groups and provides them with training, creating a new generation of politicians that will serve their imperialist interests. At the same time, development aid helps to justify the violence created by the imperialist project in the global south. The US, Germany, and other imperialist forces have made global north populations believe that war - that is to say murder, violations, interventionism - is a necessary step for colonized peoples to find a path towards modern development.

But perhaps the most ignored aspect of imperialism is daily life colonialism. The first step towards the constant invasion of global south territories starts in the societies of the global north. When people in the global north consider themselves as higher developed and therefore better societies, in other words as an example to be followed by the rest of the world. Being “the universal measure” is what ideologically accredits the interventions of governments and militaries of the global north in territories of the global south. Such processes always involve cultural indoctrination and are driven by a monoculturalist-nationalist ideal that is strongly intertwined with the Christian religion. A nation with a clear and unique model of a citizen, with a set of patriotic symbols underlining the accepted culture and a single blond-haired, blue-eyed god. Upon this, it creates its opponent, who is seen as a threat to the national culture, thus enabling all kinds of violence to fight them. We know it very well from the racist anti-Muslim speech which is filled with a Christian-white-supremacist feeling of developed superiority. This condemns especially any cultural formation which does not define itself inside of the nation-state and/or that exists outside of the rationalist division, to be marked as non-democratic, underdeveloped, barbaric, and therefore as a valid target for extinction.

The killing of farmers by the military, the conversion of peoples to Christianity, authority and capitalism by Protestant missionaries, the funding of infrastructure projects or local NGOs by “development aid” go hand in hand to maintain colonial domination. “Development aid” plays a major role in the sustainment of this construct by declaring some as developed and others as underdeveloped and engaging in the genocide of the latter. Unsurprisingly in partnership with different Christian churches. This idea of a universalist development path provides the social justification and creates a necessity for the application of counterinsurgency methods in territories of the global

south. The idea of western, german, white supremacy has to be destroyed.

To put it clearly, when German people engage in “helping underdeveloped countries” through official programs paid by the state or any of its satellite NGOs, they are engaging in the killing of peoples, cultures, and autonomies. They are making use of their cultural supremacy, in the name of charity, and they are sponsoring the counter-insurgency tactics of the US.



PARAGUAYAN PEOPLE'S ARMY-EPP

The Paraguayan People's Army (EPP) is a leftist guerrilla organization that began operating in the country in 1994. The ideological foundations of the group include a local mixture of Marxism-Leninism with the ideas of Gaspar Rodríguez de Francia, a Guaraní independence politician. Defined in the words of one of the founders Carmen Villalba as "deeply rooted in the Paraguayan people, and essentially in the peasantry. The EPP confronts the organized mafia whose main engine is the Colorado Party which has once again installed itself in power".

The history of the EPP is deeply intertwined with that of the "Patria Libre" party: a far left-wing party that arises in the 90's out of the popular movement for democracy at the end of Stroessner dictatorship. The party is inscribed in the tradition of Latin American national liberation movements, in its ideology and its structure, counting on a clandestine armed wing that would later decline in the creation of the EPP as a consolidated guerrilla.

“What we want is for the enemies to come with their big counterrevolutionary attacks, at least this way they can see that beyond their noses there are Paraguayans living in misery and oblivion, although we believe that the demoralization in which they are immersed will not allow them. Their older combatants no longer want to go to the guerrilla zones, today they send very young recruits, almost children. Every step they take carries with it danger, this is the land of the Epepista guerrillas, even the trees and the stones are in struggle, attentive, vigilant.

The EPP, which defines capitalism as an instrument of domination against humble people, became known in 2001 after the kidnapping of María Edith Bordón de Debernardi, wife of a millionaire businessman. Even though the EPP had carried out more than 70 attacks at least 12 kidnappings, 3 actions stand out: the kidnapping of Cecilia Cubas, daughter of former president Raúl Cubas, in 2005 (which resulted in her death), the attack with explosives on a military shipment that resulted in the death of 8 members of the national military forces on August, 30th 2016, and the kidnapping of the ex-vice president Denis Sánchez, still being carried.

“When the poor people ask for bread, land, fair wages and education, the rich never listen, but they do worry and ask for peace when they hear that there are guerrillas. There is no peace when the guts scream, there is no peace when there is no living wage, no roof or land to cultivate, without social justice there will be no peace, let it be clear to the starvers of the people, that peace will be for all or for no one!”

The organization focuses its struggle on territorial autonomy, thus concentrating its actions on the demands to destroy the historical concentration of land in Paraguay. The EPP's struggle for territory is based on a struggle for the defense of natural resources, which are referred to in one of its communiqués as “resources that we borrow from future generations”. In line with this, they confront “soja-homeland” (La patria sojera) and the extensive deforestation through the targeting of the Paraguayan government, the military and colonomenonitas, wealthy Mennonite farmers and ranchers of European origin. Focusing its attacks on police stations and support for the demands of the peasant class. One of the first actions of the EPP consisted in burning an Army post that was at the door of a ranch, functioning as a sort of private custody provided by the military to the agricultural interest. It has also forced the families of the kidnapped people to give hundreds of kilos of meat in poor neighborhoods.

This year the EPP requested the family of former president Óscar Denis, who has been kidnapped for 4 months by the group, to distribute food and basic consumer items to the population in the north of the country, which is historically the most impoverished area of the country, and of course the most isolated and deprived during this pandemic.

The EPP is part of the social movement for territorial autonomy that has reoccupied the areas of Concepción and San Pedro, in the north of Paraguay. In these areas, more than two hundred disappearances of social activists have been denounced, and the FTC has murdered many people under the accusation of being EPP collaborators. These territories are occupied by the triad of modern/colonial extractivism in Latin America: Soybean businessmen who own private armies, special national forces designed to fight against insurrection and US military commanders who occupied key resources under the pretext of maintaining democratic control.

Discursively, the media and governmental attack has used resources such as the demonization of the members of the EPP, launching campaigns against each of the political prisoners, even sowing panic and hatred around them inside the detention centers. As for the media, they seek to present the members as terrifying and vile beings. They are completely depoliticized, focusing the information on the analysis of isolated facts concerning the methods of struggle used by the group. At the same time, neither their thinking nor their intentions for joint freedom are brought to public attention. The demonization campaign against the EPP has been successful in terms of public support. The

E_ The FTC acts with great impunity in the northern part of Paraguay. They constantly control the population, creating a state of terror and repression in daily life.



indiscriminate violence applied to anyone who proclaims to be in favor of the group makes solidarity remain private.

“The guerrillas, in spite of the ferocious campaigns of extermination against them, continue to maintain their strength and expansion. To reactionary violence we oppose revolutionary violence. We call on the working class, peasants, students and indigenous people to join this great national cause to liberate the poor people from the oligarchic parasites, who are responsible for the misery in which our people are living. Agrarian reform now! Land for the peasants!

Since 2001, there have been several arrests of members or individuals linked to the organization. The best known case is perhaps that of its three leaders and founders: Carmen Villalba, Alcides Oviedo Brites and Aldo Meza.

The repression method applied by the government against the EPP structures has a particularity: it extends directly and personally to all the family members of its combatants, but especially to their children. The paraguayian government has launched a large media campaign in which it assures that the EPP has a clear modus operandi: all its children are taken to argentina, to live with relatives, until they are old enough to be enlisted in the group. This is not only a lie, but it also attempts against one of the main escape routes that the families of the combatants have, which is the escape to argentina, where the family can no longer be persecuted by the paraguayian military forces. In August 2013, the paraguayian government passed a Law of National Defense and Internal Security, commonly known as the Militarization Law, permitting the deployment of military forces to help the police in national security situations of “extreme gravity.” Following several successful attacks by the EPP the FTC as a special military police unit was created and deployed to the north of paraguay. The FTC is an elite anti-insurgency unit that aims to exterminate the guerrilla group. Its training is provided by Columbian, US, and Israeli Soldiers, and funding is provided by the US Congress. It is notorious for killing anybody that shows solidarity with the EPP. In the north of the country, it is often the only representative of the nation-state. But the FTC does not work alone. After the leak of diplomatic cables by Wikileaks, it was revealed that the paraguayian government asked the DEA (The Drug Enforcement Administration of the United States) for authorization to use its technology to spy on the guerrilla group.



CARMEN VILLALBA

There are around 15 of us who are part of the EPP in the prisons and there are also many prisoners from peasant organizations. The conditions in which we live are very bad in terms of treatment and isolation, especially because we do not lower our heads and we continue to confront the prevailing political and economic system. Our militants suffer a prison regime that is different from that of other comrades. For example, my comrade Alcides Oviedo is always in absolute confinement, totally isolated without any kind of rights to manual labor, study, and other usual possibilities in these areas.

Carmen Villalba was sentenced to 15 years in prison for the kidnapping of María Edith Bordón de Debernardi, plus 3 years of security measures. Carmen has been in prison for 18 years, during which time she has never ceased to be politically active.

As a peasant, she was part of the social movement against the soy business and for land reform and joined the Patria Libre Party, a radical leftist party that emerged in the '90s. It started to build up an armed wing that would later become the EPP.

We fundamentally defend the interests of the poor peasant people who every day must face murder, eviction, and the repressive subjugation of every government that is installed. The economic situation of Paraguay, according to ECLAC itself, determines that more than 54% of the population is poor and a high percentage is destitute. If we talk about the children of my country, 43% are malnourished and every year, nine thousand peasant families are expelled from their land to implement intensive agro-livestock farming by transnationals such as Monsanto and others, linked to the Paraguayan oligarchy, along with their political parties, judges and parliamentarians. These exploit the fertile land in the north and other parts of the country. All this panorama makes the peasants see themselves at present dispossessed and expelled by the repressive



forces installed on their lands by each government. This is what the revolutionary insurgency, embodied in the EPP, is currently fighting against.

In 2003 she was arrested and a campaign against her person was launched, that would also include repression against her family. She was held in military custody for a long period, before being transferred to a regular prison. In 2010 her 12-year-old son Nestor was killed on his way to school, which led to the exile of her family to Argentina, where they managed to escape the fierce persecution of the Paraguayan state. In 2013 a police officer tried and failed to kill her inside the prison. But she has never retreated from her commitment to the anti-capitalist peasant struggle, and is reaffirmed in each written communiqué. She shows internationalist solidarity to other struggles, perhaps the most recent example of this is her letter in solidarity with Pablo Hasel.

“We, as Marxist-Leninist sons of Gaspar de Francia define ourselves by the confrontation of classes, we believe in turn that the contradictions that exist between the oligarchic power and those from below cannot be solved in a peaceful way, or only with electoral participation. We maintain that to advance in a process similar to that of the popular process of Doctor France, contextualizing it within this time, a popular and radical Revolution must be carried out, and not only reforms. Otherwise, the conditions of poverty and exploitation of our people will not change.”

When her daughter Lichita was kidnapped Carmen entered into a hunger strike on January 2nd, to draw attention to the case. This July she was to complete her prison sentence and her first action was going to search for her daughter on Guazú hill.

She had publicly expressed her fear of getting killed before her release or that they state would come up with some reason to keep her in prison. These fears were not far-fetched. In August it became clear that her release would be postponed. A new sentence of 14 years was given to her, which means staying in prison until 2035, taking any possibility from her to search for her daughter Lichita.

The different legal and militant groups accompanying his case emphasize that lately in many Latin American countries the release of political prisoners is being blocked with excuses that do not conform to any legal framework, and that do not have clear precedents.

Carmen’s case shows this very clearly. The sentence of 14 years in prison for Carmen is related to a case that had been legally closed. Today it is not only reopened, which raises a dubious process, but it is done under a new legal cover. That is to say, a new case is built on a situation that had already been judged, reformulating in this way one of the oldest principles of bourgeois criminal law: the impossibility of judging the same act repeatedly. Without going into the legalistic details of the case, we wish to highlight what this means as a repressive tool. Insofar as it poses a paradigm shift in the bourgeois justice system, and its logic of criminalization, typical to counterinsurgency policies.

It is no longer about particular crimes and the punishments applied to them, but about absolute categorizations. Once someone is declared an enemy of the state and its order, she must serve life-sentence for it.

In Carmen's case, and her current conviction, the paraguayian state's war against the EPP is exposed. Being the personalized attack on its members as enemies of the state, one of the primary tools to legitimize new forms of repression that will be used later in a generalized way.

As a political prisoner, as a revolutionary, Carmen will only be liberated with relentless solidarity and political conviction, challenging in every geographic region the hegemony and dominant elites of the capitalist system.

“ I believe that any minimally honest socialist, even if he does not share the method of armed struggle, must realize that when the oligarchy persecutes the fighters with such viciousness it is for a reason. I would ask the revolutionary intelligentsia of Latin America, that sometimes I read that they treat so lightly the experience of the EPP, taking as a reference the paraguayian pseudo-left without knowing the reality of our country, to try to delve deeper into the thinking of our humblest people, to listen to their voices that speak of suffering and constant repression. As the heroic guerrilla priest Camilo Torres used to say, we must ask ourselves why the oligarchs attack a political sector with such cruelty if it is not because they stand up to them in defense of the demands of peasants and workers.”



THE SITUATION OF LAURA VILLALBA

Laura Villalba is the mother of María Carmen Villalba, and the younger sister of Carmen Villalba. Laura Villalba is not part of the EPP and never was. She has been living in Argentina for 10 years now, where she has fulfilled an important role for the Villalba family since she provided the family environment for several children of the family -children from peasants and EPP combatants- who needed to exile from Paraguay due to the state's repression.

In Laura we can see the impunity of the Paraguayan government. While the FTC murders her daughter, she is the one who is imprisoned. As the only person who leaves her with an accusation of guilt, the question is of what?

In the first instance, and given clear accounts of not having any evidence that could be used against Laura - a case is built around her on the charges of "infringement of the duty of care and family violence", in other words, they were trying to incriminate her of the death of her daughter. In addition, part of the media campaign has been to put Laura's maternity into question, and the media that support President Abdo refer to Laura as the "supposed mother".

It is important to point out that at the time of her kidnapping Laura was in a delicate state of health, after weeks of hardly eating, and in conditions of helplessness, she had signs of malnutrition. Even so, she was denied the pertinent medical controls and the necessary attention. At the same time, Laura needs regular medications that are not being provided in the right way.

Laura Villalba spent more than four months in a military prison, an unprecedented event in Paraguay. She was subjected to the torture of isolation. Isolation that has been justified as a way to protect her, alleging that her transfer is very dangerous, since there could be attempts of attack

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F_ Laura Villalba.





"Freedom for Laura Villalba"

against her. This idea that the hatred in paraguayan society against the Villalba family is so great, is also an instrument used against Carmen.

Laura Villalba has very minimal telephone contact with the family, and a constant military guard of only male.

The solidarity structures working with the Villalba family in argentina have denounced the fact that they are aware that the paraguayan government and army are looking for Carmen's daughters. Because of this constant threat to the lives of the Villalba family members, the family has been granted political asylum in argentina after a joint hard work of different political organizations, who said:

"Knowing that all these children and the companions, sisters and mother of Carmen Villalba will not be reached by the genocidal and infanticidal paraguayan Government and State fills us with peace of mind."

With her kidnapping, Laura has been denied to be able to claim the murder of her daughter. The support with Laura grows more and more and intensifies in very different worlds.

RELENTLESS MILITANCY

As an anarchist and anti-colonial coordination based in Berlin, we stand in solidarity with the EPP comrades, we support Carmen Villalba's and are fighting for her release. We stay in solidarity with Laura Villalba, who is being tortured in imprisonment for belonging to the Villalba family.

Whatever political disagreement we as Radical Solidarity Coordination might have with the fight for national liberation of the EPP we understand that ultimately we are fighting against the same oppression. We support the fight for autonomy and self-determination and we understand this is a fight for liberation from imperialist and colonial domination.

Nobody should have the power to tell anybody else how to live. It is in the love of freedom and autonomy that we accept that self-determination can be shaped in several ways, depending on the constellation in which it takes place. Self-determination is a means for breaking the hegemonic state rule of imposed monoculturalism, hierarchies, class and gender oppression. From the liberated territories in Paraguay to autonomous spaces in gentrified Berlin, these are a chance for starting the collective journey towards a coexistence without dominance. Autonomy can only be built from solidarity and critical understanding, with a will for a collective life.

The forced disappearance of Lichita and the execution of Maria and Lilian in Paraguay today are a continuation of the counter-insurgency methods utilized by US imperialist interests that initiated the dictatorships in Latin America in the late '60s with a clear aim of destroying a liberation movement that spanned the whole continent.

The killing of children is a direct and intimate punishment against revolutionary comrades. Moreover, it is a blizzard that infiltrates society, propagating terror and sadness. A chilling memory of recent history...

It's no casualty that the organizations that fight for truth & justice are in solidarity with the prisoners of the EPP. Violations and child-killing are horrible means to create and maintain domination. Means that carry a clear intent for spreading terror, terror driven by fascist hate. They are not brutal exceptions but the chosen weapons with which the Paraguayan state fights for exploitation and the dominance of the few over the many.

As anarchists, it is obvious that our solidarity and our fights should break the restrictions that nation-states and their borders impose on our minds and political imagination. What happens in Paraguay, what happens to the comrades of the EPP and their surroundings is not alien to us. We feel connected to the resistance in Paraguay as we understand it as belonging to our revolutionary traditions and histories. We recognize the counter-insurgency tactics that the Paraguayan state uses, as they belong to the same ideology that drives repression here in Berlin.

With a self-critical understanding of who we are and what role we play in the colonial matrix of domination is that we stand in solidarity with the resistance in Paraguay as we understand that fulfilling a life currently in Germany means taking part of the dominance that is applied on that territory. The peasant fight in Paraguay is as well against our welfare in the global-north, built upon colonial extractivism and exploitation.

Our daily lives are intimately connected. Poisons produced in Germany by Bayer and BASF intoxicating communities around the soja plantations in Paraguay, the dung of thousands of animals fed by that same soja intoxicating the water in Germany. Broken backs on the soy plantations, broken backs in the killing factories of Toennies & Co.

We stay in solidarity with Carmen and the search for Lichita and we stand in solidarity with every mother and grandmother fighting for Verdad y Justicia (truth and justice).

All over the world, people are joining the movement in solidarity with Carmen and Laura. The conditions of imprisonment and political torture they have both been pushed into touches all of us, no matter where we are fighting at the moment.

We call everybody not to turn their backs on Carmen, Laura, Lichita, and the Paraguayan peasant movement. Let us not be indifferent only in the name of geographical distance or ideological puritanism. It's our decision on which side to stand, either supporting the torturers through silence or joining the path of solidarity.

We call for radical relentless solidarity!



¡A LICHITA VIVA SE LA LLEVARON, VIVA LA QUEREMOS!

JUSTICE FOR LILIAN AND MARIA CARMEN!

¡ROIKOVESE HA ROIKOVETA!

LAND FOR THE PEASANTS!

FREEDOM FOR CARMEN!

FREEDOM FOR LAURA!

UNTIL WE ARE ALL FREE, WE ARE ALL IMPRISONED!



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